

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02940 282107Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 282023Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0970

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DEPT PASS USDOC FOR NBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, AR

SUBJ: NEW DIRECTOR OF INTI

REF: BA 1928

1. S&T COUNSELOR MADE INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON NEW HEAD OF NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTUE (INTI) REYNALDO UBERTALLI. UBERTALLI HAS THE TITLE OF DELEGATE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. UBERTALLI HAS A STRONG BACKGROUND IN THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH DUPONT SOME YEARS AGO; LATER WAS WITH MONSANTO WHEN FIRST POLYSTYRENE PLANT WAS BUILT IN ARGENTINA. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND SAID HE HAS VISITED THE US NINE TIMES.

3. IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION THAT UBERTALLI TAKING MORE PRAGMATIC AND LESS POLITICAL VIEW OF INTI'S ROLE IN ARGENTINA THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. HE SEEMED CRITICAL OF REPORTS BY INTI PERSONNEL ON EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER LAW NOTING THAT THE REPORTS LACKED ANY RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. UBERTALLI SEEMS INTERESTED IN PUSHING INTI

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 02940 282107Z

TOWARD INCREASED EFFORTS IN AGROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO FAVORS EFFORT TOWARD MAKING THE COUNTRY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BASIC CHEMICALS. HE FEELS THAT ARGENTINA HAS SOME EXPERTISE IN BUILDING SMALL (BY DC STANDARDS) FACTORIES OR PLANTS AND CAN HELP NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO BUILD PLANTS OF SIMILAR SIZE.

5. ST COUNSELOR NOTED HISTORIC INTI TIES WITH NBS AND URGED UBERTALLI TO TRY TO VISIT THE BUREAU WHEN NEXT HE IS IN THE US. UBERTALLI AGREED. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT NBS DIRECTOR ROBERTS MIGHT WISH SEND LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO UBERTALLI REINFORCING THESE POINTS.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS02940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750149-0214
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaahol.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BA 1928
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW DIRECTOR OF INTI
TAGS: TECH, AR, NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY INST, INTI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006